

Application No.: 09/617,590

Attorney Docket No.: PORTNZ00700

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 37-43 have been cancelled and claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 16, 18, 21, 25, 29, 30, 32 and 34-36 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 3-6 and 9-36 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

Applicant has amended claims 5 and 6 to include all the limitations of the base independent claim and intervening claims as stated by Examiner. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claims 5 and 6 are allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4, 7-13, 16-22, and 25-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Hanagan et al. (2001/0056362 A1).

In response, applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 37-43 and amended claims 3, 4, 9-13, 16-22 and 25-36, or the claims from which they depend, to depend from allowable claim 5.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 14-15 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hanagan et al. (2001/0056362 A1).

In response, applicant has amended claims 14-15 and 23-24, or the claims from which they depend, to depend from allowable claim 5.

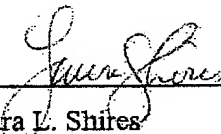
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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections and pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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